



# CARTER COURIER

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## LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

This week I will be working with my colleagues in the House to promote fiscal responsibility. Specifically, we will consider two bills that would review the performance of federal agencies and programs and eliminate waste, fraud and abuse. I am a cosponsor of the Abolishment of Obsolete Agencies and Federal Sunset Act, which will abolish obsolete programs and agencies.

Today we passed the Child Protection and Safety Act, which will protect children from sexual predators. It is expected that the President will sign this bill into law in the next several days.

On Saturday I had the opportunity to visit the El Paso-Mexico border with Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert. It was my fourth trip to the border within the past year, and was a great opportunity for Members of Congress to learn more about the need for a safe and secure border.

I also had the opportunity to speak briefly on the House Floor today to thank Speaker Hastert for visiting the Texas-Mexico border and for his commitment to making our border secure.

Until next week,

## PROTECTING THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE

I am proud to say that my loving wife and I have been happily married for 38 years. I truly believe that marriage is a sacred bond between a man and wife. In fact, since the beginning of time, marriage has been understood to be a union between a man and a woman. Now, in China they might say a civil union. In Rome they might say a church union, but it has always been a union between a man and a woman. There is not a society or religion throughout the world's history that has defined marriage in any other way.

As an elected state judge for more than 20 years, I have great respect for upholding the law and the judicial system. I am concerned by efforts of activist judges seeking to legislate from the bench who have tried to redefine what exactly constitutes marriage. I think efforts to redefine this union are the problem. Although 45 of the 50 states have either a state constitutional amendment or statute preserving the current definition of marriage, activist, left wing judges and officials at the local levels have struck down state laws protecting marriage.

This week in the House of Representatives we voted on a Constitutional Amendment that would protect the institution of marriage between a man and a woman from activist judges who want to redefine marriage. I co-sponsored the Marriage Protec-

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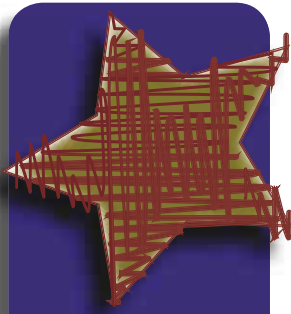
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tion Amendment because I believe we need to take a stand for the family values that make our nation the greatest land in the world.

The Constitutional Amendment states that marriage in the United States shall consist solely of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any State, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman.

This amendment is a common sense, limited, federalist approach that will leave all other marital benefit issues to state lawmakers while protecting current settled marriage law.

I really believe this amendment should be a part of the United States Constitution. When activist judges make decisions that supersede the will of the people as expressed by their elected state representatives, it is our job to stand up for the moral values of this Nation. Unfortunately, although a majority of the House of Representatives voted in favor of the Amendment, it did not receive the required two-thirds majority vote it needed to pass.

This is a confused world where liberals are seeking to blur the lines between right and wrong. In my faith, I believe it is part of God's plan for the future of mankind.

Further, the state has a vested interest in the next generation and must ensure that children are raised in the best environment possible. Thirty years of social science evidence confirms that children respond best when their mom and dad are married and live at home. They are healthier, more successful, and better balanced. That's why marriage and family law has emphasized the importance of marriage as the foundation of family—to address the needs of children in the most positive, effective way.

I am proud to support the protection of family values and the fight against liberal, activist judges who want to redefine what constitutes marriage.

Click on the following link to view my Floor speech on this bill:

[http://carter.house.gov/UploadedFiles/MarriageAmendment\\_FloorSpeech\\_07\\_18\\_06.wmv](http://carter.house.gov/UploadedFiles/MarriageAmendment_FloorSpeech_07_18_06.wmv)

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#### **CARTER: HUMAN LIFE SHOULD NOT BE SACRIFICED FOR RESEARCH**

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I strongly supported President Bush's decision to veto H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, which would use Federal taxpayer dollars to support and encourage the destruction of human life for embryonic stem cell research. This law would provide Federal funding for the first time for a line of research that involves the intentional destruction of living human embryos for the derivation of their cells.

I applaud the President for having the courage to stand up for human life and veto this piece of legislation. This bill crosses ethical boundaries, actually creating incentives to destroy human embryos. American taxpayer dollars should not be used for the destruction of human life.

This does not have to be an issue of scientific research or the protection of life. I am encouraged by the promising progress being made in alternative stem-cell research methods that do not require the destruction of human life, and I believe we should fund such efforts.

I also support S. 2754, the Alternative Pluripotent Stem Cell Therapies Enhancement Act, which promotes research into methods of producing pluripotent or "embryonic-like" stem cells that are not derived from an embryo. This bill would provide for research in using alternative sources for pluripotent stem cells that do not harm or destroy an embryo. Although this bill was supported by a majority of House members, it did not receive the 2/3 vote needed for passage.

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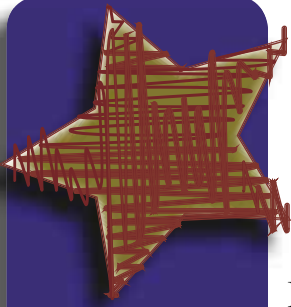
#### **CARTER: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE IS UNDER ATTACK**

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Last week the House of Representatives passed the Pledge Protection Act, which will protect the Pledge of Allegiance from the actions of activist judges.

I was proud to support this important bill. The Pledge of Allegiance is a fundamental American tradition that we must protect from the attacks of judges who seek to legislate from the bench. Generations of children have said the Pledge at school. And in Congress, we open each day by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The words 'under God' define our nation's heritage, and should not be subject to the whims of activist judges. I am proud to support action that will ensure that future generations of Americans will have the right to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

This House-passed bill gives state courts the authority to rule on the constitutionality of the Pledge for their state only. This will prevent activist federal judges from ruling on the constitutionality of the Pledge for the citizens of states hundreds of miles away.



# Kids' Page

## HOME FIRE SAFETY QUIZ

Each year in the United States an estimated 2,800 children age 14 or younger are injured and 850 killed in residential fires.

The summer months are a good time to make sure your family has an escape plan, so you will know what to do in the case of a fire.

1. Kids should never cook without a \_\_\_\_\_ in the kitchen.
  - A. Friend
  - B. Brother or Sister
  - C. Parent or Other Adult
2. Don't play with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Video Games
  - B. Electrical Cords
  - C. Toys
3. If you stand too close to the \_\_\_\_\_ you could get burned or you could catch fire.
  - A. Refrigerator
  - B. Fireplace
  - D. Smoke Alarm
4. Home fires are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Loud, hot, and dark
  - B. Quiet, hot, and bright
  - C. Quiet, hot, and dark
5. Which of the following sentences is wrong?
  - A. When escaping from a fire, stay low to the floor.
  - B. When escaping from a fire, check the door before opening.
  - C. When escaping from a fire, take time to gather up your toys.
6. You should plan to have at least \_\_\_\_\_ escape routes from each room in your home.
  - A. 1
  - B. 2
  - C. 3
  - D. 0
7. Pick a \_\_\_\_\_ place outside the home to meet your family after you get out.
  - A. Safe and easy to remember
  - B. Far away
  - C. Safe and hard to remember
8. Grown-ups should test smoke alarms every \_\_\_\_\_ to be sure they work.
  - A. Week
  - B. Day
  - C. Month
  - D. Year
9. A smoke alarm hangs from the \_\_\_\_\_ in your home.
  - A. Ceiling
  - B. Fireplace
  - C. Stove



# Color the President



## Lyndon Johnson

### Presidential Number: 36th

Years he was President: 1963-1969

State Represented: Texas

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Fact(s): He signed a civil rights bill, established Great Society programs.

### Personal

Birthday: August 27, 1908

How old would he be this year? 98

School(s) attended: Southwest Texas State College, Georgetown University Law School

Wife: Lady Bird Johnson

Occupation(s) before he was President: Teacher, rancher

Other way(s) he served: Congressman, U.S. Senator

Height: 6 feet, 3 inches

Favorite Foods: Ice cream, pancakes, seafood, spinach soufflé, sweet potatoes with toasted marshmallows

Hobbies or Sports: Fishing, hunting, riding

Pets: Dogs, beagles named Him and Her

### Life in America

How would he have traveled? Helicopter, airplane, car

How would he have communicated with his friends? Telephone, typed letter

U.S. Population when term began: 179,323,031

Number of stars on flag when he left office: 50